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SUMMARY

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WESTERN EUROPE

3. Pressure for German unification increases:

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The recent East German appeals for German unity have engendered a resurgence of activity on the part of West German right-wing nationalist groups, such as the "Nauheim Circle" led by Professor Ulrich Naock. These groups have long been exploited by the Communists and at present their propaganda line, advocating unity, peace and neutrality, is hardly distinguishable from that of the East German Government. The West German Communist Party, working largely through nationalist groups and Communist front organizations, is stepping up its effort to capitalize on public apathy and the somewhat increasing inclination toward neutrality.

Comment: Although Communist-nationalist propaganda has not to date achieved substantial success, all advocates of a unified Germany will find sympathetic listeners as long as Germany remains divided. There is a danger that the West Germans, impressed by the appeal for unification, may find themselves supporting groups that are also working for other objectives (e.g., neutralization and disarmament) which the West Germans have not consciously accepted.

LATIN AMERICA

4. Argentina's President decries neutrality:

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Perón has told Mr. Messersmith (former US Ambassador to Argentina) that a neutral or half-hearted attitude brings no benefit or credit to any country, and that the only position which Argentina could and would take in the "coming war of survival" is full collaboration with the US and Western powers. Messersmith pointed out to Perón that Argentina's "third position" confused the Argentine people, and urged an unequivocal stand before it is too late. Perón agreed that the Argentine people do not appreciate the present world situation or its importance to Argentina, and concluded by saying that he could "hardly find any reasons to differ from what Messersmith said."

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Comment: Perón's strong declaration to Mr. Messersmith is at variance with his reiteration domestically of the "third position" during the past six months, and with the current Peronista press campaign regarding US foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere and the Far East. It may be noted, however, that in July 1950 Argentine Foreign Minister Paz advised several Argentine diplomatic missions that there should be no further references to Argentina's international "third position" abroad.